

Paul wrote his letter to the Thessalonians during his second missionary journey. After briefly visiting the city through a series of wild events, he was forced to leave, but not until after he had proclaimed the Gospel boldly. The response was significant and after sending Timothy to establish the church there, Paul receives a solid report of the believers' growth, penning this letter to encourage them in their faith.

# 1 Thessalonians

1:1-10

## Receiving the Word

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

Knowing, understanding, and applying God's Word to our lives is how the Christian life is achieved. Whether it begins with a faith response to the Gospel, or a continued saturation of mind-transformation from Scripture, His Word is essential *and* sufficient in equipping the Christian for every good work.

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**DESCRIBE** how you interact with God's Word.

**WHY** would you consider God's Word to be essential in your walk with Him?

**HOW** have you seen Scripture change your heart or mind toward something specific?

**WHAT** is your typical response when the Word confronts an aspect of your life and/or behavior?

**WHAT** are some challenges you face when it comes to studying and/or applying Scripture to your life?

# 1 Thessalonians

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## Receiving The Word

### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

#### OBSERVATION

What do you observe about Paul's opening salutation in vs. 1?  
How does Paul demonstrate thankfulness to the believers in Thessalonica according to vs. 2?

In verse 3 what does Paul remember about those to whom he writes?

According to vs. 4-5 how did Paul know the Lord had chosen those in Thessalonica?

In vs. 6, who did those in Thessalonica imitate?

Where and how has God's Word gone forth (vs. 7-8)?

Describe the response demonstrated when the Word came to those in Thessalonica (vs. 9).

#### INTERPRETATION

Read Acts 17:1-14. What were the circumstances surrounding Paul's journey to Thessalonica and the proclamation of the Gospel there?

What do you see in Thessalonians 1 that reveal the opposition described in Acts 17?

Describe the relationship shared between faith, love, and hope in vs. 3.

What does it mean to receive something with conviction (vs. 5)?

Explain the connection between *how* those in Thessalonica received the Word (vs. 5) despite the circumstances they faced (vs. 6), and their response to it (vs. 9).

Who did these new converts imitate (vs. 6), and who did they go on to be an example to? Why is this such an important aspect of receiving God's Word properly?

Keeping in mind the circumstances of the letter, why do you think Paul mentions the resurrection in verse 10? Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 for insight.

#### APPLICATION

How would you say you receive God's Word? Who are you imitating in your life as a pattern consistent to applying Scripture? Finally, what kind of example are you?